

Tuesday, September 22, 2009
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Missouri is among the hardest hit states experiencing 9.5% unemployment

(WASHINGTON) – Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) took action today to extend unemployment benefits up to 13 weeks to 4,091 Missourians, whose unemployment assistance is scheduled to end by the end of this month.

“This extension will assist workers in providing for their families – helping to pay for groceries, filling their cars with gas and making their mortgage payments on time,” said Congressman Carnahan.

The bipartisan Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009 will immediately benefit an estimated 314,080 workers nationwide projected to exhaust all available unemployment benefits by the end of September. The legislation extends the total amount of potential Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits to 46 weeks.

In addition to those 314,080 workers with exhausted benefits at the end of this month an estimated 1,080,614 Americans will have exhausted EUC benefits by the end of December. With today's legislation an estimated 20,556 Missourians currently expected to have exhausted benefits by the end of December will also be given this 13 week extension.

“Extending these benefits is one of the most cost-effective and fast-acting ways to stimulate the economy and support families in these tough economic times,” said Carnahan.

Every \$1 spent on unemployment benefits generates \$1.63 in new economic demand according to Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Economy.com.

The bill does not add to the deficit: it extends the federal unemployment tax for one year that has been in place for more than 30 years, and requires better reporting on newly hired employees' start date to reduce unemployment insurance overpayments – both of which were proposed by President George W. Bush.

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